

ANIMAL-FRIENDLY IDIOMS THAT YOUR STUDENTS WILL LOVE

Replace outdated phrases that are harmful to animals with these fun alternatives. Plus, get exclusive idiom posters for your lesson!

The words that we use have the power to influence those around us. Unfortunately, many of us grew up hearing common phrases that perpetuate violence toward animals, such as “kill two birds with one stone,” “beat a dead horse,” and “bring home the bacon.” These old sayings are often passed down in classrooms during lessons on literary devices.

While these phrases may seem harmless, they carry meaning and can send mixed signals to students about the relationship between humans and animals and can normalize abuse. Teaching students to use animal-friendly language can cultivate positive relationships between all beings and help end the epidemic of youth violence toward animals. Try using some of the following fun idioms in your lessons this year:

Harmful	Helpful	Meaning
Kill two birds with one stone	Feed two birds with one scone	Accomplish two things with one action
Let the cat out of the bag	Spill the beans	Tell a secret
Take the bull by the horns	Take the flower by the thorns	Handle a problem fearlessly
Be the guinea pig	Be the test tube	Be tested on
Hold your horses	Hold the phone	Wait
Open a can of worms	Open Pandora's box	Create a situation that will cause problems
Bring home the bacon	Bring home the bagels	Make a living
Beat a dead horse	Feed a fed horse	Try to make something happen that has no chance of happening
More than one way to skin a cat	More than one way to peel a potato	More than one way to complete a task
Put all your eggs in one basket	Put all your berries in one bowl	Bet everything on one possibility



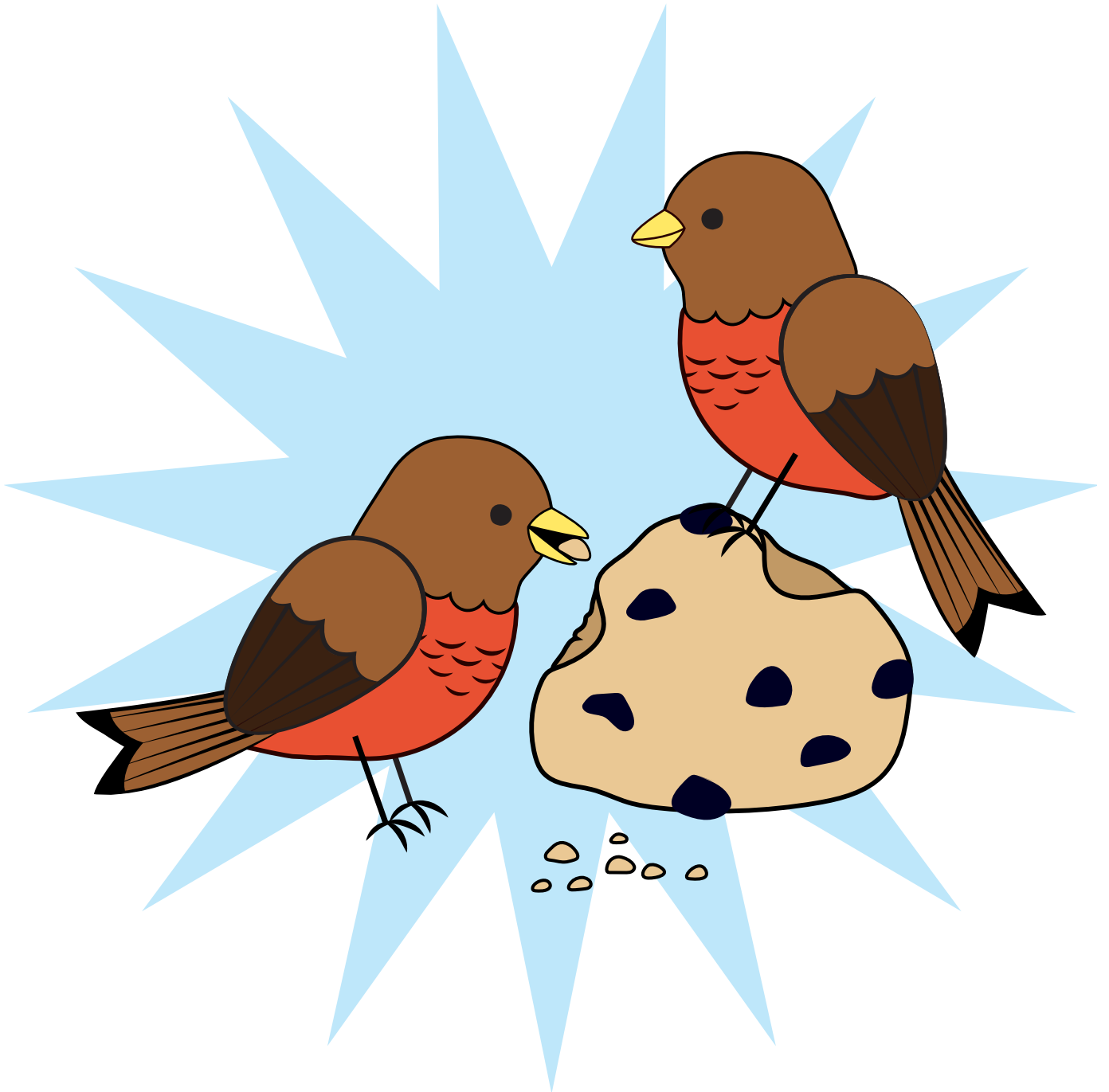
NEED MORE CLASSROOM INSPIRATION?

Visit [TeachKind.org](https://www.teachkind.org)



HARMFUL: Kill two birds with one stone

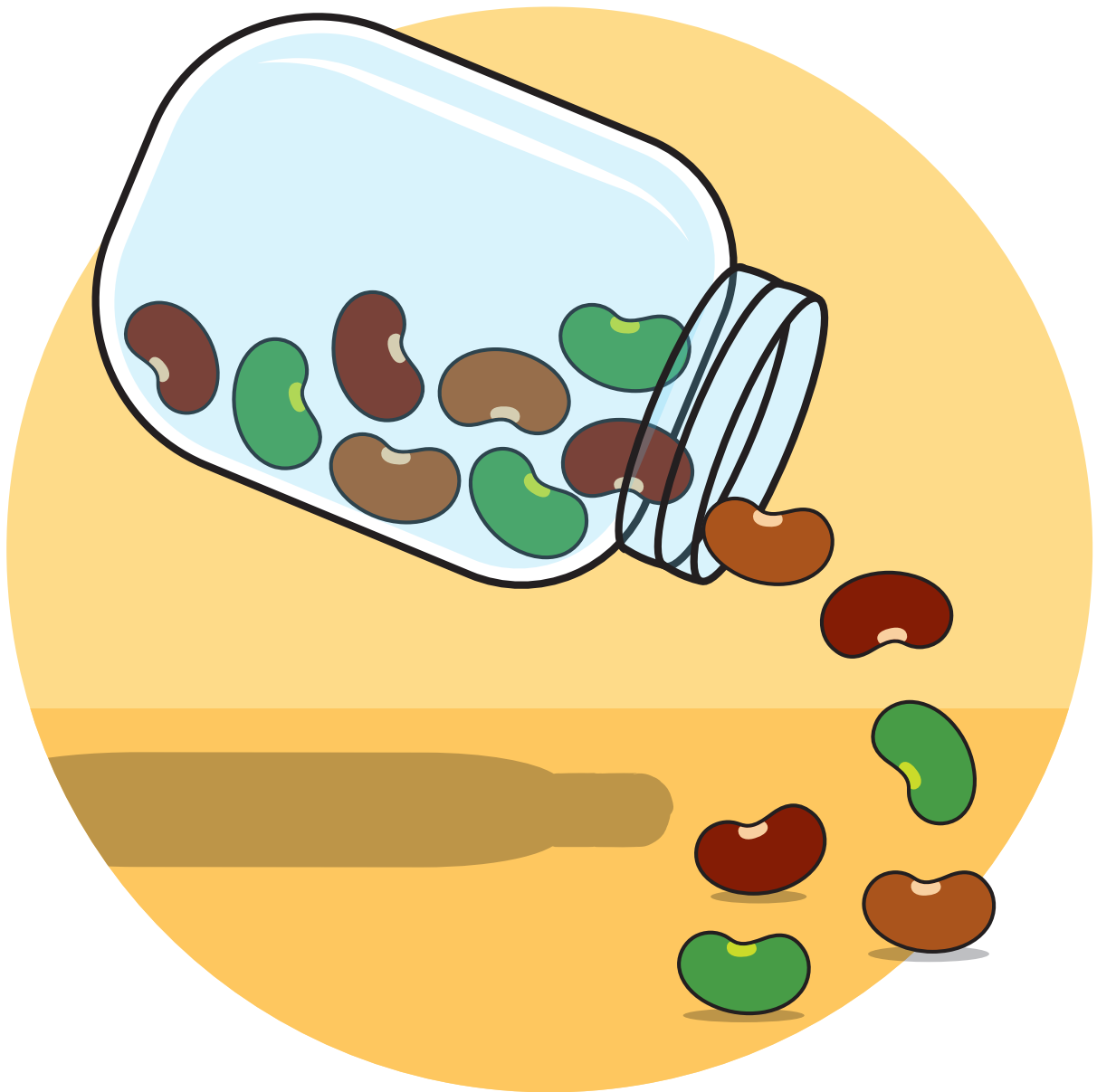
HELPFUL: Feed two birds with one scone



MEANING: Accomplish two things with one action

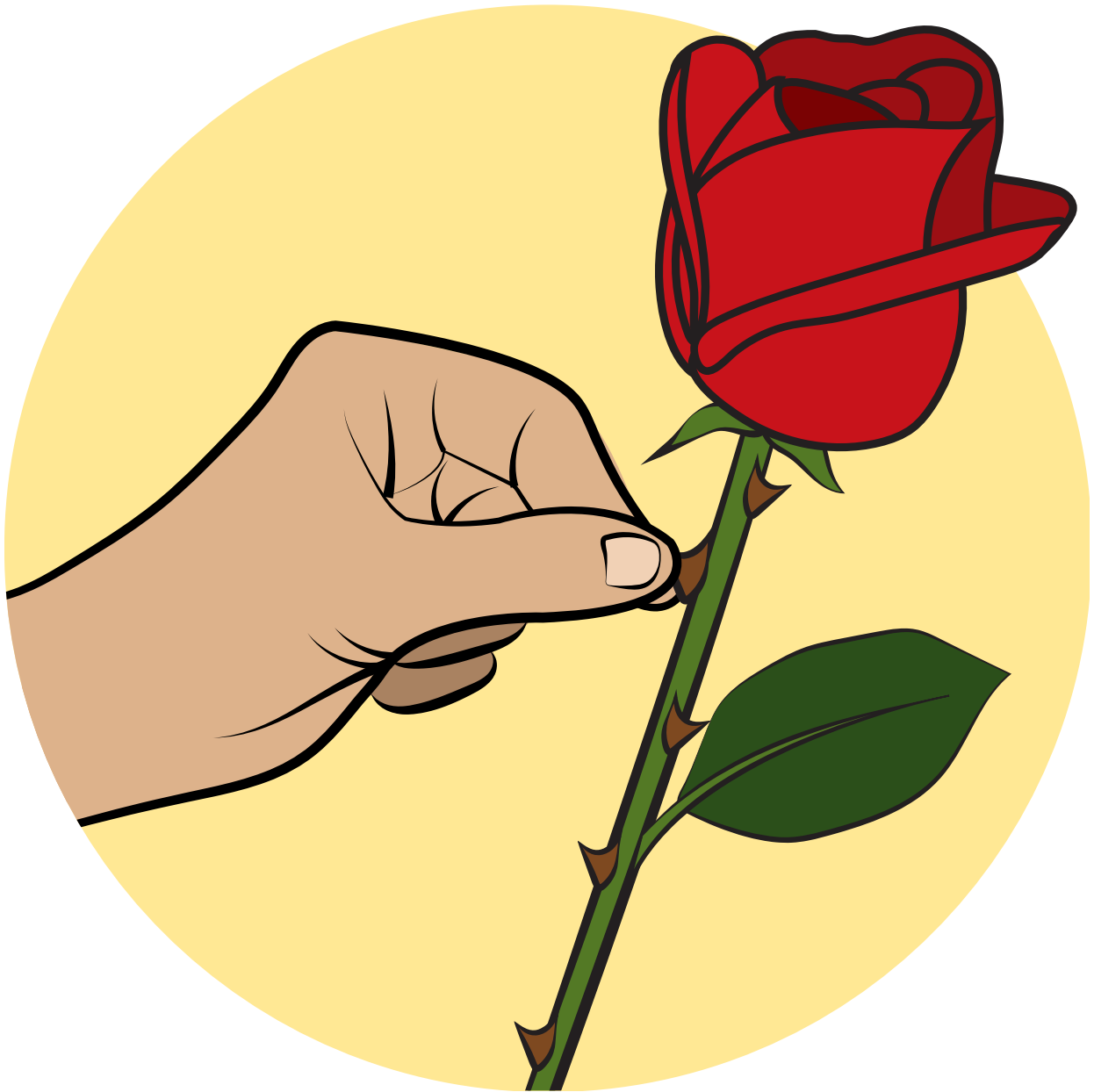
HARMFUL: Let the cat out of the bag

HELPFUL: Spill the beans



MEANING: Tell a secret

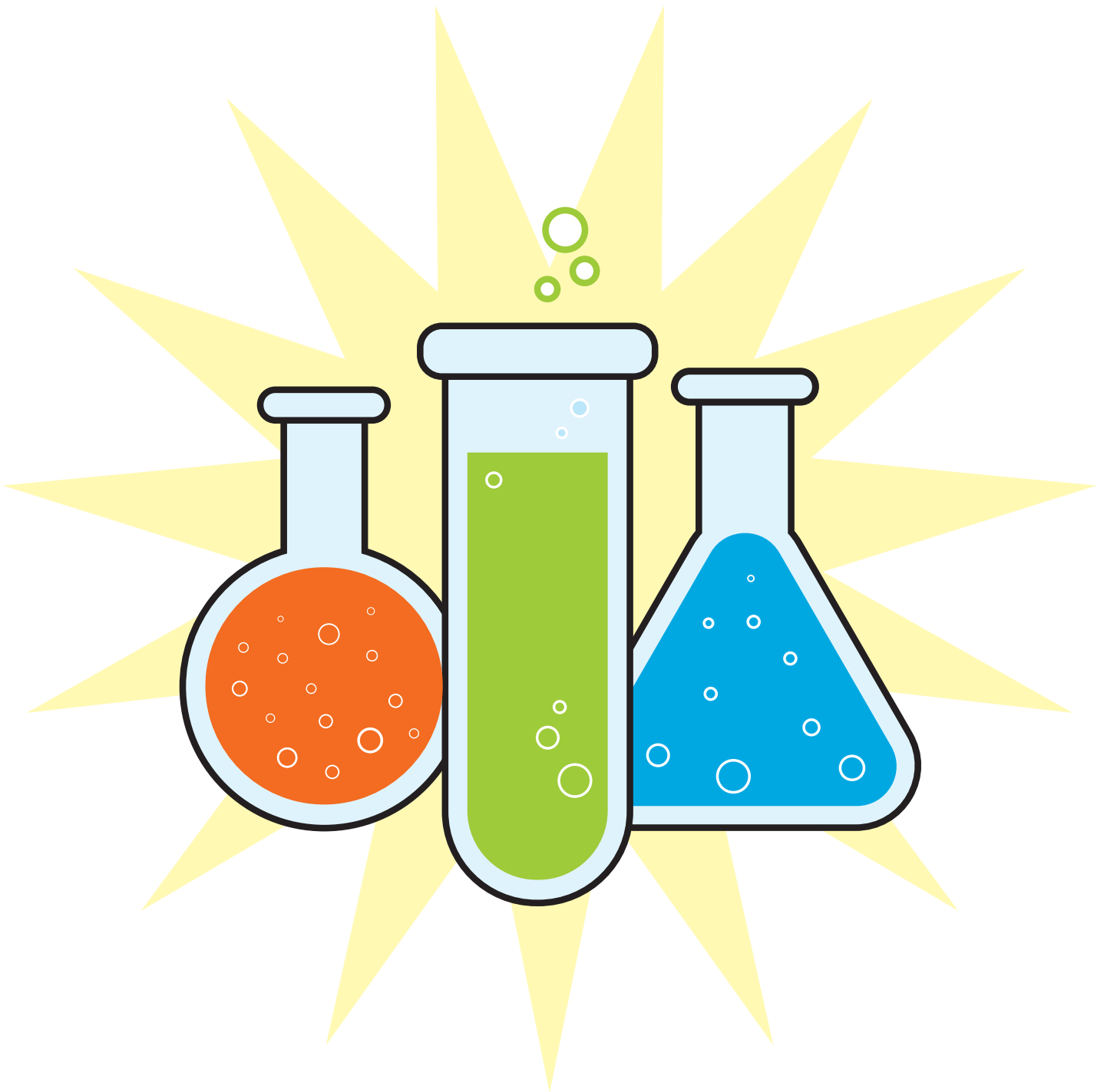
HARMFUL: Take the bull by the horns
HELPFUL: Take the flower by the thorns



MEANING: Handle a problem fearlessly

HARMFUL: Be the guinea pig

HELPFUL: Be the test tube



MEANING: Be tested on

HARMFUL: Hold your horses

HELPFUL: Hold the phone



MEANING: Wait

TeachKind

HARMFUL: Open a can of worms

HELPFUL: Open Pandora's box



MEANING: To create a situation that will cause more problems

HARMFUL: Bring home the bacon

HELPFUL: Bring home the bagels



MEANING: Make a living

HARMFUL: Beat a dead horse

HELPFUL: Feed a fed horse

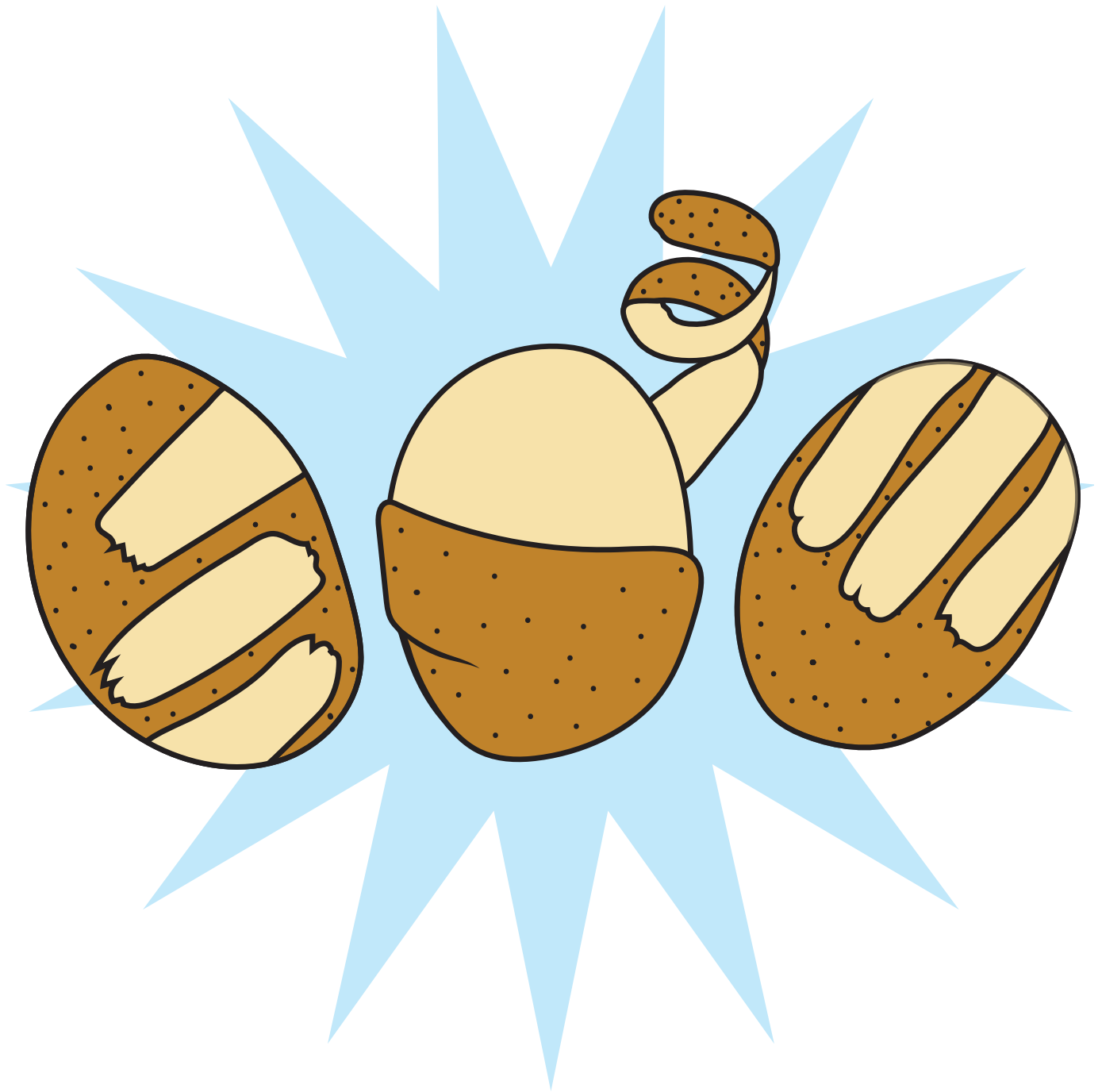


MEANING: Try to make something happen that has no chance of happening.

TeachKind

HARMFUL: More than one way to skin a cat

HELPFUL: More than one way to peel a potato

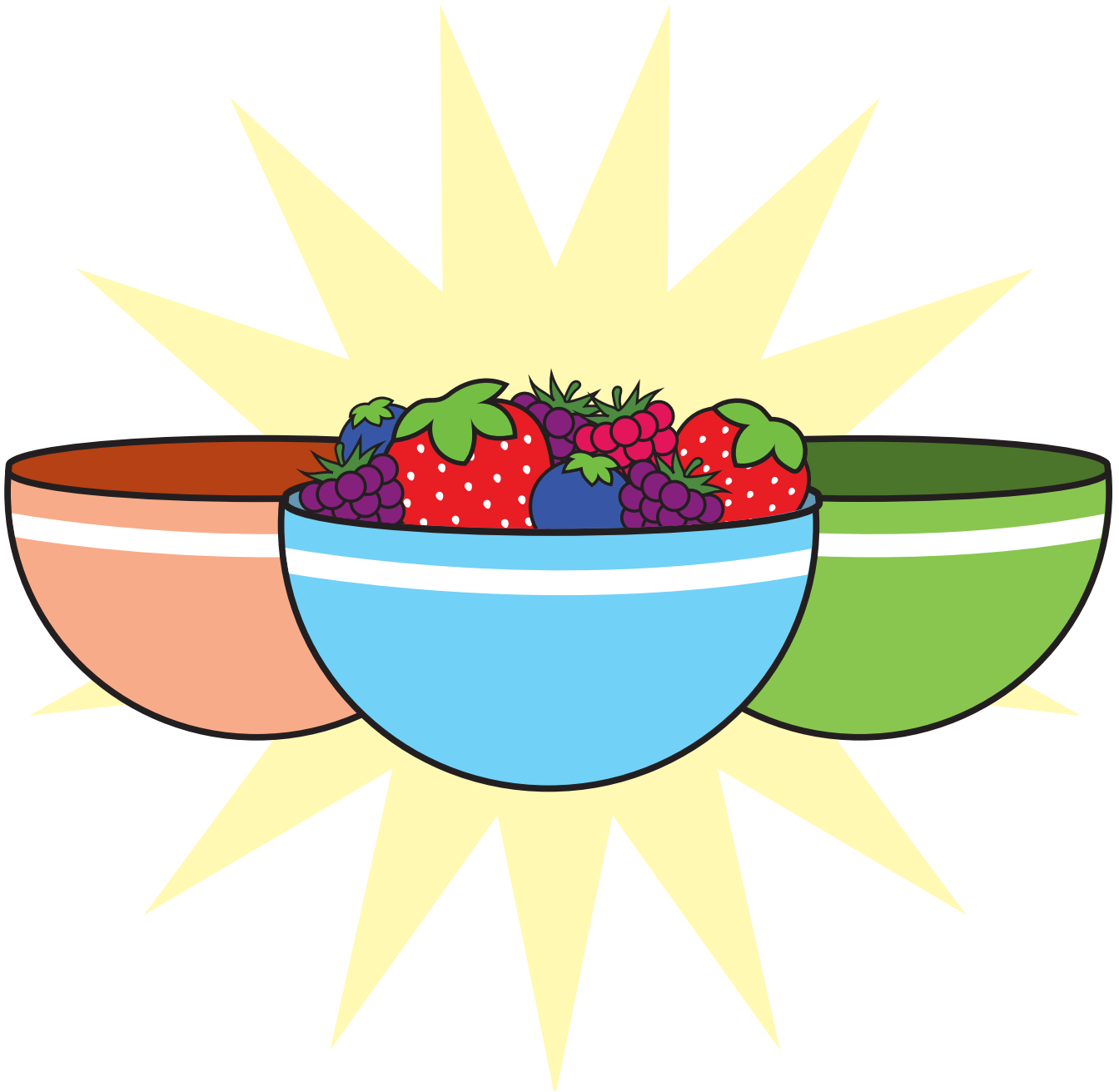


MEANING: More than one way to complete a task

TeachKind

HARMFUL: Put all your eggs in one basket

HELPFUL: Put all your berries in one bowl



MEANING: Bet everything on one possibility